REMARKS:

This amendment is in response to the final rejection of May 23, 2005 and incorporates matters discussed during the course of a personal interview by applicant Daniel D. Friel, Sr. and the undersigned attorney with Examiner Shakeri on June 29, 2005, as reported in the Interview Summary by Examiner Shakeri. Applicant and the undersigned attorney wish to thank Examiner Shakeri for the courtesies and suggestions at that interview.

All of the prior claims have now been canceled. Claims 63-86 have been added. All of these newly added claims are readable on the elected invention. Of these newly added claims, claims 63, 81, 82 and 83 are independent claims. Claims 81 and 82 correspond to canceled claims 10 and 50, respectively, which were indicated as being allowable. Claims 81 and 82 present former claims 10 and 50 in independent form and take into account the rejection of their former parent claim 54 as being indefinite. These claims should now be clearly allowed.

Of the remaining independent claims claim 63 is directed to a knife edge conditioning apparatus while claim 83 is directed to a method which includes the use of such type apparatus.

It is respectfully submitted that parent claims 63 and 83 are patentable over the prior art and in particular over Friel Des. 368,217 ("Friel") in view of Edling. As suggested by Examiner Shakeri attached with the filing of this Request for

Continued Examination is a declaration by applicant Friel.

The declaration points out the educational and work experience of Mr. Friel, which clearly establishes him as an expert in the field of sharpening devices. For example, Mr. Friel's educational background and early work experiences with DuPont are stated in paragraphs 2 and 3.

Paragraph 4 points out that after retirement from DuPont Mr. Friel founded and is now CEO of Edgecraft. From the start up of Edgecraft in 1985, Edgecraft now has more than 150 full-time employees and offers over 500 different products. Edgecraft is an innovator of various products, including sharpeners, and its sharpeners enjoy a world-wide reputation in the industry for technical innovations and consistently high quality.

As pointed out in Paragraph 5 Mr. Friel is the named inventor on numerous patents while at both DuPont and Edgecraft. In the field of various types of sharpeners Mr. Friel is a named inventor of 22 U.S. utility patents and 10 design patents. Mr. Friel is an expert in the field of sharpening devices. (Paragraph 6)

Mr. Friel's declaration discusses the three common techniques for sharpening tools, namely (1) abrasive sharpening, (2) steeling and (3) skiving. See paragraphs 7-10.

Mr. Friel discusses the state of the art with regard to sharpeners and particularly with regard to steeling techniques.

See paragraph 11.

Mr. Friel also discusses how the present invention represents a unique technique for sharpening. This technique is described in the present application and in the claims as "conditioning". Such technique incorporates high precision means for controlling on every stroke the angle between the facet and the knife edge with a hardened surface. The result of this technique is to create a highly reproduceable and unexpected row of microserrations along the knife edge. Such knife edge remarkably differs from the type of edge desired by the common sharpening techniques. See paragraph 12.

Mr. Friel's declaration in paragraph 13 discusses some of the features used in the conditioning technique such as having a precision guide for a hardened surface wherein the hardened surface does not have the characteristics of abrading, skiving or metal removing tools. The object having the hardened surface is non-motor-driven or static. The hardened surface is non-planar or of non-extended shape where it contacts the edge of the blade to locally stress and fracture the edge of the blade by repeated stroking. This thereby results in a microscopic serration along the blade edge.

In paragraphs 14-16 Mr. Friel's declaration specifically addresses the prior art which had been relied upon in the final rejection. This discussion points out how the present invention

of this application would not only have been unobvious, but would also require undue experimentation from the prior art in order to result in the present invention.

Mr. Friel's declaration in Paragraph 17 also refers to some of his prior patents relating to sharpeners which use a truncated cone as the sharpening tool in combination with a guide surface. In these patents, not only is the truncated cone an abrasive sharpening tool, but also the truncated cone is motor driven. There is no disclosure in any of these patents to reproducibly create a uniformly microserrated blade edge and the structure of the sharpeners of these patents would not create such an edge. Accordingly, these patents provide no guide lines for suggesting the features that might be used for obtaining a microserrated blade edge.

In paragraphs 18-20 Mr. Friel again points out why the present invention of this application would not be obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art and why undue experimentation would be required by one of ordinary skill in the art to result in the invention of this application.

Finally, in paragraph 21 Mr. Friel's declaration refers to Edgecraft's commercial practice of the invention which began by its introduction to the trade in April, 2004 with the first shipments being in July 2004 resulting in a total of approximately 10,000 products being sold in the United States and

Europe.

For the reasons given above, as stated in greater detail in the declaration of Mr. Friel, claims 63-86 should be allowed and this application should be passed to issue.

Respectfully Submitted,

CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ, LLP

By: Harold Pezzner

Harold Pezzner
Reg. No. 22,112
1008 N. Orange Street
P. O. Box 2207
Wilmington, DE 19899
(302) 658-9141

@PFDesktop\::ODMA/MHODMA/IMANDMS;CB;409457;1